

*A journal of opinion, research, and farce*

## Pirates Seize Reading First

The federal Reading First Program was seized yesterday by Somali pirates, who quickly discovered that the \$1 billion-a-year initiative had already been plundered. The pirates' plans were foiled by Department of Education cronies with ties to commercial reading programs and assessments, who looted the budget long before the Somali pirates came on board. "This is just one more victory for Direct Instruction," said Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

*See Arrr! Foiled Again! page 8*

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## Connection Discovered Between Research and Policy

A team of scientists from leading universities announced yesterday that they have discovered the long-hypothesized connection between educational research and policy. Using an electron microscope, the scientists found filamental chains of evidence linking the two. Contacted for comment, a leading educational policy maker called the scientists' claims "nonsense." "We're impervious to empirical evidence, and no study will ever change my opinion on that."

*See Research Noticed? page 6*

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## Chancellor Rhee Threatens to Secede

Michelle Rhee, the controversial chancellor of public schools in Washington D.C., today announced that the District's school district will secede from the United States if President-Elect Obama refuses her call to denounce unions representing public school teachers. "I'm a Democrat," she said, "and it's a core principle of us Democrats to crush unions."

*See Rhee-Secession page 7*

## Open Letter from *EdTweak* to President-Elect Obama

It is with utmost respect that we urge you to promote school reform through the power of the marketplace. Just because less regulation and a freer market wasn't the true path to success for airlines, the energy industry, telecommunications, media ownership, the savings and loan industry, and the financial markets - all that doesn't mean we shouldn't give it shot for the education of our children.

We urge you to close down public schools. Only private companies should run schools, and they should be paid based on student test scores. This gives us a measurable output that can be commodified and will free the market to work its magic.

New companies would sprout up not only to run these schools but to create a secondary market for the test score payments. We envision a National Score Exchange that would allow investors to determine the true value of any student and of his or her scores. In fact, the scores could be packaged in new, inventive ways for trading, with test-score futures, options and, of course, derivatives to facilitate the buying and selling of risk.

The federal Score Trading Insurance Corporation (F-STIC) - or even the Treasury itself - could step in if things get out of hand. But why worry? If nothing else, any failure of this system will likely be big enough to have international repercussions, bringing those pesky, high-scoring Singaporeans and Finnish down with us.

*See Subprime Ed page 4*



*What could go wrong?*